

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Mat-Su Baseball, Inc.****Project Title:**

Mat-Su Baseball, Inc. - Outfield and Backstop Fence and Other Park Improvements for the Mat-Su Miners Baseball Field

State Funding Requested: \$ 200,000**House District: 13 - G**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Replace the ball park fencing and repair and upgrade other park structures.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$200,000**Funding Secured

Amount FY

Other Pending Requests

Amount FY

Anticipated Future Need

Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

This funding will pay for the replacement of the baseball field fences and backstop as well as repair and/or replace other structures that are in disrepair. The funding requested will pay for the materials and the manhours are planned to be paid through donation from volunteers and local businesses.

Project Timeline:

2008

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Mat-Su Baseball, Inc.

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Pete Christopher

Phone Number: 907-746-4914

Address: Mat-Su Miners Baseball Alaska Baseball League, P.O. Box 2690, Palmer, AK 99645

Email: Pete Christopher [gmminers@gci.net]

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

February 12, 2008

Senator Lyda Green
600 East Railroad Avenue, Wasilla, AK 99654
And
Representative Kevin Meyer
716 W. 4th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

Dear Senator Green and Representative Kevin Meyer:

Thank you for supporting last years' appropriation in the Capital Budget (SB 53) that supported renovations and rejuvenation of Hermon Brothers Field, the home of the Mat-Su Miners. We have been encouraged to pursue our request this year and feel confident that it will not be vetoed after legislative passage as occurred last year. Our request is defined in two parts although both areas of funding are critical to the safety of fans and players and to continue our community involvement and program fund raising efforts.

\$ 45,000.00 Fencing: The fence is dangerous and a safety issue. The fences were built in the 1970's and have been repaired time and again. This structure is in serious need of replacement for the safety of the fans and players. We have decreased the cost of this renovation by having the removal and disposal donated.

\$143,500.00 Concession Stand: This structure was built in the 1980's and is in desperate need of repair and updating. The income made through concessions is a substantial percentage of our operating budget and helps to support the field usage for the high school programs, Summer Youth Clinics, maintenance, and equipment for the field. We are a 501 c 3 non-profit based on education, and volunteer students learn customer service in the concession stand as well as earn hours towards a merit scholarship for graduation.

The number of volunteer and community service hours donated to Mat-Su Miners by the local high school teams; Alaska Job Corps; Northern Industrial Training; Palmer Elks Lodge; The Wounded Warrior Project; Army National Guard; Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base Enlisted Personnel and Leadership Program; Wasilla and Palmer Chamber of Commerces and numerous local Valley residents is astounding can't be quantified in a dollar amount. Without these people we would not be able to do the things we do and need a boost from the State to help keep us going.

We are excited to announce that we have received funding from the Mat-Su Health Foundation to renovate our box seats for handicapped and elderly. This will improve the ability for many to be able to come and enjoy a ballgame.

Thank you,

Denise Christopher
Secretary – Board of Directors



Bill Allen
City Manager

City of Palmer
231 W. Evergreen Avenue
Palmer, Alaska 99645-6952
Phone (907) 745-3271
ballen@palmerak.org
www.cityofpalmer.org

March 21, 2008

The Honorable Lyda Green
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear President Green:

Your support of vital capital projects for the Valley is greatly appreciated, and your office has been extremely helpful in working with the City of Palmer toward our mutual goals during this legislative session.

I am writing to provide information highlighting the importance of Valley-specific funding requests. The City of Palmer supports inclusion of the following projects in SB 256 and encourages Governor Palin to allow for their funding in the supplemental budget. They are important for the safety of Valley residents, and for continued economic development of the Greater Palmer area.

Mat-Su Baseball, Inc.

- Over 15,000 citizens utilize and visit the ballpark annually
- Hermon Brothers Ball Field is home to both Palmer and Colony High Schools in the spring; hosts the Mat-Su Miners semi-pro team in the summer; and is used by the Alaska State Fair from August through Labor Day
- Multiple users ensure state dollars are maximized, however the only time the field is available for improvements is Labor Day through October
- Funding in the supplemental bill allows for supplies to be purchased, contractors hired, and work to start immediately after the Alaska State Fair concludes on September 2; if funding is delayed another construction season is lost
- The funds will rebuild the 32 year old outfield fence which is literally falling down; replace the backstop originally installed in 1976; and re-build the concession stand which provides a funding stream throughout the entire season which helps keep the non-profit sustainable.

Palmer Arts Council

- The Performing Arts Center will serve several thousand people for productions in the 300-seat theater within the first year of opening, and will provide arts and arts education summer events and camps for residents and summer visitors
- Upwards of 1,000 children will participate in active programs and enrichment activities at the Center
- The supplemental funding will provide land clearing, demo of the existing old construction, potential hazardous waste cleanup and property inspection
- Delay in initiating the planned Arts Center will cause the project to incur up to a 10% increase in annual building costs, and will cause costs to accrue on the acquired but unused property. Additional funding resources, including solicitation of grants and other revenue sources are dependent on and will follow the initial State funding

Valley Community for Recycling Solutions

- State Funds are vital to attract other funding – 2.5 million in matching funds have been appropriated by the Borough but will not be released until VCRS has all funding in place. The Rasmuson Foundation has expressed an interest in the project, but will not provide lead money
- Delaying the project to the fiscal year budget will cause the entire effort to be set back another year causing economic hardship to the organization and potentially the Borough
- The project will have a positive economic impact on the Borough as trash is diverted from the landfill – six million dollars in public money has been spent since 2004 in the design and construction of new cells at the landfill
- The temporary facility is unsafe; the building is falling down causing much work to be completed outside in one of the windiest spots in the Borough
- The temporary location is immediately adjacent to one of the busiest intersections on the 5th most dangerous road in the state
- VCRS has a 40% annual growth rate in people recycling without any overt advertising – a new facility is needed now

Palmer High School (PHS) Bleachers


- The funding for bleachers will complete last year's appropriation and provide safety consideration for attendees at PHS events
- This will allow for the construction of safety steps for the internal bleachers and provide a concrete pad for the external bleachers, allowing both accommodation for handicapped access and facilitation of future expansion
- The internal bleachers accommodate in excess of 667 (current student population at PHS), and the external bleachers allow for seating of up to 300 people per event

Palmer-Wasilla Highway Improvements

- The Palmer-Wasilla Highway is the 5th most dangerous road in the State, serving approximately 14,500 vehicles per day (2005) just west of Palmer. Traffic is anticipated to grow to over 40,000 vehicles per day by 2030, even with the Bogard Road Extension to Palmer
- Work must begin now and must be pursued vigorously and continuously to keep up with growing traffic and to keep the Palmer-Wasilla Highway from moving up any higher on the list of dangerous roads

Thank you for your hard work on our behalf.

Best personal regards,



B. B. Allen



Mat-Su Miners Baseball, P.O. Box 2690, Palmer AK 99645-2690

Tel. 907-745-6401 Fax 907-746-5068

Email: **GeneralManager@matsuminers.org**

A Non-Profit 501 (c) (3) Organization Tax Id. #92-0072147

February 25, 2008

Senator Lyda Green

600 East Railroad Avenue, Wasilla, AK 99654

And

Representative Kevin Meyer

716 W. 4th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

Lyda:

copy faxed to: 465-3800

Dear Senator Green and Representative Kevin Meyer:

Thank you for supporting last years' appropriation in the Capital Budget (SB 53) that supported renovations and rejuvenation of Hermon Brothers Field, the home of the Mat-Su Miners. We have been encouraged to pursue our request this year and feel confident that it will not be vetoed after legislative passage as occurred last year. Our request is defined in two parts although both areas of funding are critical to the safety of fans and players and to continue our community involvement and program fund raising efforts.

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The number of volunteer and community service hours donated to Mat-Su Miners by the local high school teams; Alaska Job Corps; Northern Industrial Training; Palmer Elks Lodge; The Wounded Warrior Project; Army National Guard; Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base Enlisted Personnel and Leadership Program; Wasilla and Palmer Chamber of Commerce's and numerous local Valley residents is astounding can't be quantified in a dollar amount. Without these people we would not be able to do the things we do and need a boost from the State to help keep us going.

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Thank you,

Denise Christopher, Secretary – Board of Directors

CC: Governor Sarah Palin, Office of Management Budget

Ginger Blaisdell

From: Cindi Heal-Harsh [charsh@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2008 8:45 PM
To: Ginger Blaisdell
Cc: Pete Christopher
Subject: Mat Su Miners supplemental budget

Sarah-

Spring time greetings from Cindi & Chris in Palmer-

I thought I would drop a quick note with regard to moneys being considered for the supplemental budget and the Mat Su Miners on Friday. I am a life long Alaskan who grew up in a household that watched the Alaska Baseball League baseball from the very start. In 1987 my parents moved to the Mat Su Valley & my Father traded in his blue & white Glacier Pilots hat for the Mat Su Miners green & gold. I have to suspect that at least one consideration in my parents move was this baseball field. The Mat Su Miners were known as "The Valley Green Giants" when we were kids. Before my parents became Valley residents in the 1970's & 80's we used to pack up the motorhome, put on our bug dope & head to Palmer from Anchorage to watch those "giants" play games in one of the prettiest ballfields anywhere. Today, I myself am a Miners supporter who loves to watch baseball games at the facility we have in Palmer.

The Mat Su Miners Organization does an excellent job at raising funds for the baseball team within the community, and serve as an example for other organizations who really do give back in exchange for the dollars that we as individuals & Alaskans give to support their efforts. The budgetary constraints on this athletic team in Alaska are going to be felt even more with rising costs for transportation. Money that may have been used for facility maintenance in past seasons may be unavailable after transportation is taken into account.

The Mat Su Miners Organization works to maintain an incredible facility that is truly a "field of dreams" to the children and adults who watch & play baseball within those green wooden walls. All things cost money. Maintenance on a facility that relies on volunteers is a huge undertaking by any community. When the snow melts and the ice thaws in Palmer I see volunteers starting to go to work in preparation for the coming season.

Within the green walls of The Mat Su Miners things age and require replacement. As Alaskans we are charged with maintaining many facilities in Alaska--I hope that you will further consider funding for this one. The community that makes up the Mat Su Miners appreciates the consideration for funding from The State of Alaska.

On a more personal note:

We wish we could have gone to Hawaii for Todd & Sharilyn's wedding; it looks like we missed out on a beautiful week. Now that the snowmachine season is headed for a melt down Chris is trying to make a couple final trips to Petersville--our little cabin is coming along nicely. I am enjoying the longer days & looking forward to Spring time weather!

We hope to see you out & about--Cindi Heal-Harsh & Chris Harsh

3/21/2008

Ginger Blaisdell

From: gmminers@gci.net on behalf of Pete Christopher [gmminers@gci.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2008 8:27 PM
To: Ginger Blaisdell
Subject: Support the MatSu Miners

Dear Senator Green,

We are requesting support for our \$200,00000 in the supplemental budget. We appreciate all of the support from legislators and really need the assistance to keep doing what we do.

Pete Christopher, General Manager
Mat-Su Miners Baseball
Alaska Baseball League
P.O. Box 2690, Palmer, AK 99645
Tel. 907-746-4914 Cell 907-373-8730

Ginger Blaisdell

From: Michelle Heun [hilkldge@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2008 9:00 PM
To: Ginger Blaisdell
Subject: Supplemental Bill for Mat-Su Valley Recreation Fields

Ms. Blaisdell,

This email is a show of support for the \$200,000 Supplemental Appropriation for Mat-Su Valley recreation particularly the Hermon Brothers Field on the Alaska State Fairgrounds.

We have raised three boys and all have played on the field which continues to be one of the most used in the State. We house a college player every year for the Miners team and endorse funding this project to keep our youth playing on well-maintained fields.

Thank you.
Michelle Heun
Mat-Su Borough resident
HiLkLdge@mtaonline.net

Ginger Blaisdell

From: Jackie Endsley [jendsley@lbew1547.Org]
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2008 9:06 AM
To: Ginger Blaisdell
Subject: Mat-Su Miners

Hi – just want to give my support to the Mat-Su Miners and hope they will be included in the budget. They are a great community organization.

Jackie Endsley
Community Relations Coordinator
3333 Denali St., Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 777-7257
(907) 777-7264 (fax)

Ginger Blaisdell

From: STACI FIESER [stacifiesercpa@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 23, 2008 10:08 PM

To: Ginger Blaisdell

Subject: Support for the \$200,000 Designation in the Supplemental Budget to the Mat-Su Miners Baseball

I am writing in support of the \$200,000 legislative designation in the supplemental budget for the Mat-Su Miners Baseball which will be used to replace the outfield and backstop fencing and to build a new concession stand. I have come to personally know Pete Christopher, the General Manager of the Mat-Su Miners, and his family. Since he has been in charge, the love and support of the game has increased out in the Mat-Su Valley. The capital improvements that are being proposed will help continue this support by providing a better playing field for the players and concession stand for the fans of America's number one past time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Staci Fieser, CPA

P.O. Box 1451

Dillingham, AK 99576

(907) 842-4020 phone

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Ginger Blaisdell

From: Alex Hills [ahills@cmu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2008 6:24 PM
To: Ginger Blaisdell
Cc: ahills@cmu.edu
Subject: MatSu Miners

Ginger,

We're really hoping that the \$200K for the MatSu Miners survives the budget process this year.

Please pass this on to Lyda.

Thanks,

Dr. Alex Hills
Palmer

Ginger Blaisdell

From: Mike Combs [mike@combsinsurance.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2008 2:16 PM
To: Ginger Blaisdell
Subject: *****SPAM***** Facility funding - Mat-Su Miners Hermon Brothers Field.

Dear Senator Green,

You are probably aware that the entire Combs family has been strong supporters of the Mat-Su Miners and the operations at Hermon Brothers Field throughout their entire history here in the Mat-Su Valley. I personally have spent many hundreds of hours helping the club and working on the field facilities.

Some of the fencing, bleachers and backstop structures are in desperate need of repair and/or replacement. Any assistance the State can give this organization would be very helpful in correcting these areas of need. We are all very proud of this program please help us make it safe and enjoyable for future generations of fans and supporters.

Sincerely, *Michael F. Combs fan and supporter of Mat-Su Baseball, Inc.*
(907) 745-2144 FAX 745-7275

Ginger Blaisdell

From: Michael Woods [woody-ak@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2008 1:56 PM
To: Ginger Blaisdell
Subject: SUPPORT THE MINERS

Hi -

My name is Michael Woods and I vote. I want to voice my support for this funding. I'm disabled and having the games to go to during the summer is a great boon for myself and the community.

The Miner Organization brings up young men from colleges around the United States to play in our Great State each summer. This is an opportunity for them to see the real state and it's people. Hopefully later in life they will be business and civic leaders with a fond memory of our state and a willingness to work with us.

Yours truly, Michael Woods